



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED
P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999
DALLAS, TX 75265

COPY MAILED

SEP 03 2004

In re Application of
Mohammed Nafie et al
Application No. 09/737,070
Filed: December 14, 2000
Attorney Docket No. T1-30633

: OFFICE OF PETITIONS
: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
:
:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed August 3, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional application set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant petition does not comply with item (1)

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, 8th ed., August 2001), Section 201.11, Reference to First Application. The amendment filed August 3, 2004 fails to state the relationship of Application No. 09/224,401, filed December 31, 1998, to the instant application.

Accordingly, before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) and a substitute amendment¹ stating the relationship of the prior-filed application to the instant application is required.


Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Window located at:
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 220 20th Street S
 Customer Window, Mail Stop Petitions
 Crystal Plaza Two Lobby, Room 1B03
 Arlington, VA 22202

By fax: (703) 872-9306
 ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 306-5685.²


Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

¹ Note 37 CFR 1.121

² Effective September 27, 2004, the phone number will be 571-272-3220.